

# RAYA KENNEY



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## EDUCATION

12th grade in Washington, DC  
Homeschooled (8 years)

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## HONORS & AWARDS

National 1st Place winner, Library of Congress's Letters About Literature National Writing Contest, 2016  
(50,000+ entries)

Scholastics Writing Awards 2015 - 2018

Gold Keys (2)

*Back Door on Broadmore*, novel

"After *Ancient of Days* by William Blake," poem

Silver Keys (3) short stories, poem

Honorable Mentions (7) short stories, poem

Second place winner, Library of Congress's Letters About Literature National Writing Contest, 2015

Honorable mention, Library of Congress's Letters About Literature National Writing Contest, 2019

First place winner, Larry Neal Writing Award Competition sponsored by the Washington, DC

Commission on the Arts and Humanities, poem, 2015

Second place winner, Larry Neal Writing Award Competition sponsored by the Washington, DC

Commission on the Arts and Humanities, personal essay, 2014

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Founder of nonprofit:

National Memorial to the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation, established March, 2018

The goal of the Foundation is to build a national memorial in Washington, DC to the women who worked on the home front during WWII.

<https://www.whfmmf.org>

Got legislation passed in the United States Congress to name an alley in Georgetown, Washington, DC

- Researched historical documents in the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library; discovered Hazel Cashell developed the land around the alley
- Worked with an architectural historian with the DC National Historic Preservation Office to confirm accuracy of chosen name, Cashell Alley
- Oral presentation of proposal to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Washington, DC City Council of the Whole
- Based on the city council's recommendation, Congress passed legislation to name the alley in Washington, DC

## JOB EXPERIENCE

Theatre Lab Work Study — Camp Counselor

Led kids in theatre and organized other activities

Barista at Cafe Georgetown (2017 – 2019)

Worked the cash register and made drinks for customers

Unruly Theater Project, Professional Teen Improvisation Group (2016 — 2018)

Monthly improv shows for the public

Workshops for children

Twice weekly rehearsals

Volunteer at assisted living home, Sunrise on Connecticut, working with the elderly with worsening cases of dementia and Alzheimers, 2hrs once a week (2014 - present)

- leading games and art activities
- cleaning
- playing piano and singing
- comforting, conversation, spreading joy and anything else that is needed by residents and staff

Childcare and dog walking

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## PUBLISHED

Post Opinions, “Experts gave their best ideas for ending harassment. Here are yours.” *Washington Post* 2017

Ray Ficca, **Raya Kenney**, *Cashell Alley Kids* (2016)

Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage New Play Festival

Play performed at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts

“Missing Smile,” *Washington Post* (poem)

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## MEDIA APPEARANCES

Letter to the Editor, “Penny Marshall told women’s stories and inspired many others,” *Washington Post*, December 21, 2018

Letter to the Editor Video (0:29), *Washington Post*, “Experts gave their best ideas for ending harassment. Here are yours.” 2018

*Wall Street Journal*, Teens Who Say No to Social Media, 2017

Segment for German Television (1, 2 oder 3) as a Kid Reporter for ZDF (KiKa) Kids Show, 2017

Recorded story and a live television interview, WUSA-9, Relisha Rudd and her “Missing Smile,” 2014

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Classical Piano (2009 - present)

Classical Ballet/Contemporary (2010 - 2018)

Horse Riding (2009 - 2018)